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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-43

JUNE 14, 1946

## WHEAT

Winter wheat harvest now well along; June 1 estimate 775 million bushels, up 32 million over May forecast. June estimate about 6 percent below last year's crop of 823 million bushels but this would still be third largest of record.

Spring wheat forecast 251 million bushels, based on June 1 conditions. Total spring wheat crop last year 300 million bushels.

Indicated production of all wheat 1,025 million bushels, third consecutive billion bushel crop, although slightly below last two years. Ten-year average (1935-44) wheat crop 844 million bushels.

## OATS

Cats forecast 1,493 million bushels, 3 percent below last year's record crop but 32 percent above 1935-44 average of 1,129 million bushels.

## BARLEY

Barley crop indicated 231 million bushels, smallest since 1937, about 13 percent under short crop of 264 million in 1945 and 20 percent under 10-year average of 290 million bushels. Farm stocks of barley June 1 totaled 45.6 million bushels, smallest for the date since 1938. Stocks about one-fourth under year ago and one-eighth under June 1 average of 52.6 million. Low stocks result from small crop last year and heavy feeding demand. Disappearance of barley since April 1, not unusually heavy, however, 24.7 million bushels compared with 24 million in like period year ago.

## RYE

Rye production forecast 20.8 million bushels, about 21 percent under last year's crop of 26.3 million bushels and less than half the 1935-44 average of 42.4 million bushels. Rye acreage for harvest smallest in 65 years and present indications are for third smallest crop since 1881. Stocks of rye on farms June 1 only 1.8 million bushels, lowest farm reserve this date in 13 years of record. A year ago farm stocks were 4 million bushels, compared with 10-year June 1 average of 11.3 million bushels. Small stocks due to last year's small crop and heavy demand.

## CORN

Corn planting about 95 percent done in Iowa by June 1, in Illinois about 75 percent, Missouri 85 percent, etc. No figures available yet on acreage. Average annual U.S. corn acreage planted 1940-44 was 92.5 million acres, average crop 2,906 million bushels.

## EARLY POTATOES

This year's early white potato crop indicated 75 million bushels, compared with about 65 million last year and 49 million average (1935-44). The crop this year is made up of 2.4 million bushels of winter potatoes and 5.1 million early spring potatoes, all grown in Florida and Texas; 44.5 million late spring crop and 23 million bushels summer crop, latter grown as far north as New Jersey and Nebraska.

## FRUIT

Peach crop estimated 81 million bushels, almost up to record crop last year (81.6

million) and compares with 10-year average of approximately 60 million bushels. Crop in 10 Southern States estimated 25.4 million bushels, 6 percent under last year but 48 percent above 1944 and 61 percent above average.

No figures yet on commercial apple crop but indications point to crop below average though at least one-half larger than last year's record low.

Pear crop indicated 32.6 million bushels, 4 percent under last year's record crop but 12 percent above average. Crop on Pacific Coast 25.2 million bushels compared with last year's record of 27.4 million and 10-year average of 20.5 million bushels. Coast produces 77 percent of U.S. pear crop.

Plum crop in California indicated 89,000 tons, one-fourth above last year and about 29 percent above average. California dried prune production estimated 200,000 tons, about 12 percent below last year but slightly under average. June 1 condition suggests a Northwestern plum crop about like 1945.

Total cherries in the 12 commercial States 180,190 tons compared with 148,190 tons last year and 159,597 tons average. Sweet varieties 94,000 tons compared with last year's record 102,000 and 1938-44 average of 80,971 tons. Sour cherries 86,190 tons, nearly double last year and only slightly below average.

1945-46 orange crop estimated 99.7 million boxes--47.2 million early and mid-season and 52.5 million boxes of Valencias. The 1944-45 total was 109.2 million boxes, including 47.3 million early and mid-season and 61.9 million Valencias. Early and mid-season varieties harvested by June 1; California Valencias picked mostly in summer and fall.

Total grapefruit crop 1945-46 estimated 63.4 million boxes compared with 52.5 million in 1944-45. Grapefruit processed this season probably will total 44.6 million boxes, about 70 percent of crop. Year ago 26.8 million boxes or 51 percent of crop were processed.

Florida tangerines 4.4 million boxes compared with 4 million year ago.

California lemons 13.4 million boxes, 7 percent above year ago. About 8 million boxes were utilized up to June 1, compared with 6.5 million up to June 1 last year.

## HAY

Tame hay forecast about 85 million tons. If 11 million tons of wild hay are put up, total 1946 crop would be 96 million tons, compared with 100 million average (1941-45). Record carry-over from last year, however, 16½ million tons on farms May 1.

## MEAT PROSPECT

1946 meat production forecast nearly up to 22.9 billion pounds produced last year (wholesale weight). This would be 2 billion pounds under 1944 record. Now thought likely that 1947 meat will be at least 1 billion pounds under 1946, with less pork and somewhat less beef and lamb.

Number hogs slaughtered in 1946 probably will be around 10 percent more than the 68.5

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS  
AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

Commodity and Unit	Actual Price		Parity Price
	Apr. 15 1945	May 15 1946	May 15 1946
Wheat, bu. . . . .	1.58	1.70	1.63
Corn, bu. . . . .	1.16	1.35	1.18
Peanuts, lb. . . . .	8.69	8.90	8.83
Cotton, lb. . . . .	23.59	24.09	22.82
Potatoes, bu. . . . .	1.62	1.57	1.34
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . .	14.20	14.30	13.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . . .	13.70	13.80	9.97
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . . .	14.30	14.40	12.40
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . .	14.00	14.10	10.80
Butterfat, lb. . . . .	51.1	51.0	1/45.8
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . . .	3.25	3.21	1/2.65
Chickens, live, lb. . . . .	24.3	25.3	21.0
Eggs, doz. . . . .	31.3	32.8	1/33.7

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.



million head killed in 1945, result of delayed marketing of 1945 spring pigs, 12 percent increase in 1945 fall pig crop, and early sales of 1946 spring pigs. But weights will average lighter.

Total cattle and calf slaughter in 1946 probably will be 5 to 7 percent under 1945 record (34.9 millionhead). Grass cattle sold this year may nearly equal last, but grain fed will be fewer and these account for third of beef supply. Number cattle on feed in Corn Belt April 1 was 17 percent under year previous.

10 percent reduction in ewes and drop in lamb crop will cut lamb and mutton production this year under last.

Civilian consumption of meat October-March 85 pounds per person, compared with 83 pounds in like period 1943-44, but has declined since winter. U.S. exports of meat this year will exceed the 1.2 billion pounds (dressed weight) exported in 1945; exports in 1944 were 1.9 billion pounds and in 1943 were 2.5 billion pounds.

#### DAIRY

May milk production 12.3 billion pounds, only 1 percent below record high in May 1945. Production per cow a record but did not quite offset fewer cows. Number of milk cows on farms beginning of 1946, 26.8 million, compared with 27.7 year earlier. Milk output per cow June 1 reported 19.20 pounds, highest on record and compares with previous high of 18.64 pounds year earlier. 75.3 percent of cows kept by reporters were being milked on June 1, about average for the date. Tight feed situation beginning to show in daily ration of 3.6 pounds per head being fed June 1, compared with 4.1 pounds year ago; in North Atlantic States cows were getting a full pound less this year. Cost of concentrate feed in whole milk areas June 1 estimated \$3.10 per cwt., up 44 cents from year ago.

#### POULTRY AND EGGS

Hens laid 6,216 million eggs in May, 2 percent under year ago but 19 percent above 1935-44 average. Egg production first five months of this year 28,801 million eggs, 1 percent above like period last year and 31 percent above average. Number of laying hens during May 351 million, 2 percent under year ago but still 15 percent above average.

Farmers are buying and hatching more chicks than they expected to. February 1 intentions reported 14 percent fewer chicks, but on June 1 there were 576 million young chickens of this year's hatching on farms, only 7 percent under year ago and 7 percent above average. However, late hatching will be smaller than last year.

Average price of eggs received by farmers in mid-May 33 cents per dozen compared with 34 cents year ago and 22 cents average. Farmers got average of 25 cents per pound live weight for chickens in May compared with 27 cents year ago and 15 cents average. Mid-May cost of average poultry ration \$3.33 per cwt., highest in 23 years of record, compares with \$2.87 year ago and \$2.06 average. Cost of poultry ration has increased 16 percent since May last year while egg prices decreased 3 percent and chicken prices decreased 5 percent.

Farmers got 31 cents per pound live weight for turkeys in mid-May compared with 31 cents year ago and 16 cents average.

#### FATS AND OILS

Production of all fats and oils from domestic materials forecast 9,250 million pounds for 1946, roughly 2 percent under 1945. Butter production much smaller—creamery butter output first three months this year was 89 million pounds less than year ago. Less cottonseed oil this year also—January-April output 165 million pounds under like period last year. These decreases likely to outweigh increases in lard, linseed oil and grease. It is expected that in 1947 fats and oils will run 5 to 10 percent under this year.

#### FARM LABOR

The farms are slowly getting more help. Number of persons working on farms June 1 was 11,422,000, about 4 percent more than year previous. Number of hired workers 2,453,000, about 4 percent more than year ago but still 20 percent under prewar average for the date. Number of family workers 8,969,000, also 4 percent more than year ago, and in the North about like prewar number although in the South family workers still 10 percent fewer than prewar average for the date. The trend is toward shorter hours. Farm operators on June 1 averaged 12.2 hours work per day compared with 12.8 hours in 1944 and 1943. Hired hands June 1 averaged 10.1 hours per day, 0.6 hour less than the wartime high and also lower than 1940 (10.4 hours). Number of foreign workers on farms: Mexicans 30,012, Jamaicans 7,536, Bahamians 4,306, Barbadians 3,182, Newfoundlanders 660, total foreign workers 45,705. Total World War II veterans placed on farms in April 2,394; total placed January-April 23,723 compared with 3,805 in like period 1945.

#### FARM INCOME

Total cash receipts to farmers from products sold during March 1,377 million dollars compared with 1,445 million dollars in March 1945. These figures include 56 million dollars Government payments this March and 60 million dollars Government payments year ago. Farm income January-March 4,480 million dollars compared with 4,502 million dollars in like period last year. These include 242 million dollars Government payments this year and 195 million dollars Government payments year ago.

#### MARKETING MARGINS

Charges for marketing family market basket of farm food products \$227 in March compared with \$223 in March 1945. Retail cost of the family basket \$466 in March compared with \$451 year previous. Farmer's share of consumer's dollar spent for farm food products 55 cents in March (the fifth month at that figure) compared with 54 cents in March 1945.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
Index Numbers	Base Period	May 1946
Prices received by farmers. . .	1910-14=100	211
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14=100	184
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14=100	115
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14=100	173
Retail prices of food . . .	1910-14=100	1/190
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14=100	1/355
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14=100	2/374
Ratios	Long-time May-average	May 1946
Hog-corn ratio, U.S. . . . .	11.6	10.6
Butterfat-feed ratio, U.S. . .	22.8	24.2
Milk-feed ratio, U.S. . . . .	1.13	1.20
Egg-feed ratio, U.S. . . . .	10.4	9.8
Production Comparisons	Jan.-Apr. 1945	Jan.-Apr. 1946
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	38.1	37.2
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	22.2	22.6
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) 3/	2,359	1,930
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) 3/	305	332
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) 3/ . .	2,848	3,280
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) 3/	5,710	5,698
1/April figure.		
2/Factory pay roll per employed worker. March figure.		
3/Federally inspected slaughter.		

For more detailed information write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.